Motion put and lost

The Demand No. 42 Miscellaneous put and carried

(ii) 22—Miscellaneous (Cranganur)

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Prime Minister):* I move for a grant of Rs. 360 under 22-Miscellaneous—Cranganur.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Finance and Law):* I second it.

Demand put and carried

(iii) 3—Agriculture

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Prime Minister):* I move for a grant Rs. 5,49,399 under 3—Agriculture.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Minister for Finance and Law):* I second it.

***Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar** *(Prime Minister):* This is another department about which there were some criticisms in this House. It will be admitted that it is a very useful department and particularly in these years of scarcity of food this department must be made to work with greater vigour. I should like to place before the House the programme of work that it has immediately in view to carry out in this year. The most important item of work proposed to be undertaken under Agriculture is the intensification of paddy production. One of the surest and quickest methods of increasing production is by the application of adequate manures to the crop. By steady propoganda and under the liberal subsidy given by Government the sale of manures by the Agriculture Department has increased by leaps and bounds, and from a sale of Rs. 5,000 worth of manure in 1117, the sales have now risen to five lakhs at present. The people have become decidedly manure minded and we have now come to a stage when the supplies are found far short of the demand, and in future campaigns we have not only to use concentrated manures like oil cakes and bone meal and ammonium sulphate but also bulky manures lime compost and green manures.

One of the schemes proposed to be undertaken is the intensive manuring of our kole and puncha crops. We have in the State about 20,000 acres of kole and puncha lands of which 12,000 acres can be safely and profitably manured, leaving apart the 4,000 acres of kuttaden lands and another 4,000 acres of marginal lands which are liable to occasional droughts. A definite scheme of manuring these 12,000 acres will be undertaken and the manuring will be done on a subsidised basis and under the expert supervision of a special staff. The manure proposed is a mixture of groundnut cake, bone meal and ammonium sulphate which will cost about Rs. 30 per acre and a 50% subsidy amounting to one lakh and eighty thousand rupees is proposed to be utilised for this purpose. The increase in yield on account of this manuring is expected to be anything from one lakh and eighty thousand to two lakhs and forty thousand paras of paddy in addition to a 2% increase in the yield of straw. If this scheme is found sucessful, this system of systematic and subsidised manuring will be extended to the Varthu Vitha lands of the Chittur Taluk.

Concentrated manures like oil cakes, ammonium sulphate and bone meal do give good results, but the chief difficulty confronting their use is their high price and even non-availability. Government are giving liberal subsidies to set off the difficulty of high prices but very little can be done to increase the availability of these manures. We are therefore to fall back upon other resources like green manure and compost.

Green Manures.—Experiments conducted in the State as well as elsewhere have shown that by green manuring alone the yield of paddy can be raised by 20 per cent. In addition to the different kind of green leaf available in the State, we have to grow green manure crops like Daincha, Sesbania Speciosa, and Gliricidia Maculata. Green manuring with Daincha has become popular in the Kozhinjampara Firka and it has to be made popular in other parts of the State also. Sesbania Speciosa and Gliricidia are plants which can be grown on the bunds of paddy fields and lopped in the fields for manuring the paddy crop. Coiricidia is a perennial plant and gives at least 30 lbs. of cuttings per year. It is not attacked by cattle and goats also. An intensive campaign of popularising these green manures is proposed to be undertaken this year.

*Speech not corrected by the Hon'ble Member.

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